

March 21, 2008

E-19J

Forest Supervisor Anne Archie
c/o Christine Brunner
Eagle River-Florence Ranger District
Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest
1247 East Wall Street
Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the
Fishel Vegetation and Transportation Management Project on the Chequamegon-Nicolet
National Forest, Eagle River-Florence Ranger District, Forest and Vilas Counties, Wisconsin
EIS No. 20080075

Dear Ms. Brunner:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Final EIS and ROD for the above-mentioned project in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The U.S. EPA rated the Draft EIS EC-2, Environmental Concerns – Insufficient Information in our July 9, 2007 comment letter. Our comment letter requested clarification as to why the Preferred Alternative would be the better the management option pertaining to snag creation, species health and vigor, and Northern goshawk nest buffer sizes. We believe the response to comments included in the FEIS and ROD addresses these requests.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Kathleen Kowal of my staff at (312) 353-5206.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kenneth A. Westlake 3/21/08

Kenneth A. Westlake, Supervisor
NEPA Implementation
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

cc: Jim McDonald, Regional Environmental Coordinator